

Approved: 9/23/2015

Charter Review Committee
Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island
Minutes of the September 9, 2015 Meeting

The meeting of the Jamestown Charter Review Committee was held at the Jamestown Town Hall, in the small Conference Room, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI. The Committee Chairman, Arlene Petit, called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

The Chairman called the roll and noted the following members were present:

Arlene D. Petit, Chairman
James Rugh, Co-Chairman
Anthony Antine
Blake A. Dickinson
John Pagano
Mary Lou Sanborn
Edward Gromada, Secretary

Mary E. Meagher (Ex Officio Member)

II. MINUTES

A motion was made by John Pagano and seconded by Ed Gromada to accept the minutes from the meeting of August 11, 2015. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 3:37 PM.

Mary Lou Sanborn suggested a wording change to the minutes of August 26, 2015. In paragraph C, sub-para a. the words from "Sections 101 to 104: discussion ensued but no action or vote was taken", be changed to "Sections 101 to 104: no revisions necessary." The Committee agreed to use this wording on all future Sections where there was no wording change or votes taken. A motion was then made by John Pagano and seconded by Tony Antine to accept the minutes from the meeting of August 26, 2015. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 3:38 PM.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A) The following Sections were reviewed by the Committee:
- a. Section 201. The Committee decided to reserve action on this Section until the September 23, 2015 Committee meeting.
 - b. Section 206. Special meeting: At the August 26, 2015 meeting, Jim Rugh proposed a reworded section, as follow: "The town council may convene a special meeting only by majority consent of the town council. ~~The town council may meet sooner than 48 hours after each member has been notified of a special meeting, but only by unanimous consent of the town council. Any member may waive the requirement of notice of a special meeting, and such waiver shall be entered in the record of the proceedings of such special meeting.~~ Special Meetings shall be subject to and comply with the Open Meetings legislation of the State as set forth in Title 42, Chapter 42-46 of the Rhode Island General Laws. The town council may by a majority vote convene an Emergency Meeting as set forth in § 42-46-6 to address only an unexpected occurrence that requires immediate action to protect the public." A motion was made by Blade Dickinson and seconded by Ed Gromada to accept the changes made to this Section. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:12 PM.
- B) The following Sections were reviewed by the Committee:
- a. Section 212. Mary Lou Sanborn is researching other Town Councils in the way they describe the timeframe for an election. She will report back her findings at the September 23rd Charter meeting.
 - b. Section 213 to 215 had no revisions necessary.
 - c. Section 216. In paragraph two, Jim Rugh suggested adding the words "and to post on the Town's website" at the end of the first sentence. The new wording would be: "As used in this section, the term "publish" means to print in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the town and to post on the Town's website: (1) the complete ordinance and (2) the places where copies of it have been filed and the times when they are available for public inspection." A motion was made by Blade Dickinson and seconded by Ed Gromada to accept the changes made to this Section. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:25 PM.
 - d. Section 217 and 218 had no revisions necessary.
 - e. Section 219. A discussion ensued regarding the percent (10%) used as a minimum number of qualified, registered voters required to submit a petition to the Town Council. The discussion centered on the fact that the registered voter list in Jamestown is overstated by as much as 20%, thus making the minimum number of required signatures for a petition inordinately high. The general consensus of the Committee was to not change this Section. Ed Gromada requested a vote. A motion was made by Jim Rugh and seconded by Tony Antine to not make any changes to this Section. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor. Ed Gromada voted against. Time of motion 4:49 PM.

f. Section 220. The Committee felt that the "Referendum procedure" referenced in this Section did not address a budget referendum, and if so, where in the Charter was a budget referendum mentioned. The wording of the Section will be sent to the Town Solicitor for further review and explanation.

g. Section 221 to 225 had no revisions necessary. Old Business ended at 4:55 PM.

H. SECTION 211 REFERRED TO THE TOWN SOLICITOR FOR REVIEW. *John*

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on September 23, 2015.

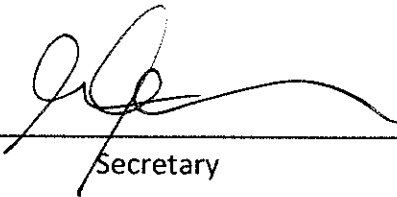
B. For the next meeting, the Committee will consider:

i. Reviewing Section 201 and 212

ii. Reviewing Sections 301 to 406

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by John Pagano, and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to adjourn the meeting. Anthony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Edward Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh, Arlene Petit and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.


Secretary